

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-32 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected on reference grounds. In particular, claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kara (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0071297). Additionally, claims 22 and 28 have been rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heiden (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,707) and further in view of Ryan, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,795) and further in view of Kara. Still further, claims 23-26 and 29-32 have been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Heiden and Ryan, Jr. and further in view of Mozdzer, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0010524). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

First, it is noted that the only independent claims pending in the application are claims 1 and 13. As noted above, these claims have been rejected under § 103 based on Kara. However, the portion of Kara relied upon by the Examiner is not prior art to the subject application.

In more detail, as indicated below, Kara is a continuation of five previous applications, now patented, the oldest of which was filed in 1995:

<http://normal.nenta.org/external/bartgl/hat/nk/exml01-CIOCPubscr0rDI-MoM-0nAMdITyaMMN-0nPSG-H-TESMAHID-DIAK'-E...com/GadB>

More specifically, with reference to pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites to Figure 8 of the Kara publication and particularly to boxes 811 and 816 and corresponding paragraph number [0125]. However, these features were first described in the '241 application

having a filing date of November 17, 2004; they are not present in any of the prior applications including the '398 application discussed above.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith Figure 8 of the Kara publication as well as Figure 13 (which appears to correspond most closely with Figure 8 of the Kara publication) of U.S. Patent No. 7,266,504 (which issued from the '398 application), U.S. Patent No. 7,343,357 (which issued from the '949 application), U.S. Patent No. 6,208,980 (which issued from the '015 application), U.S. Patent No. 5,801,944 (which issued from the '417 application) and U.S. Patent No. 5,717,597 (which issued from the '658 application).

As can be seen, Figures 13 of these patents did not include any boxes that even remotely resemble boxes 806, 811 and 816 (or the corresponding comments) relied upon by the Examiner. It should also be noted that the related discussion of these boxes is not included in these patents.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the features relied upon by the Examiner in the Kara publication were first included in the '241 application. Since the filing date of the '241 application is November 17, 2004, the Kara publication is not prior art to the claims of the subject application. As such, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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